

LETTER  
FROM  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

RECOMMENDING

*The passage of a law regulating the sales of subsistence supplies to companies, detachments, and hospitals.*

JANUARY 7, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, January 5, 1880.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate copy of letter from the medical director of the Department of the Missouri, dated the 22d ultimo, and of indorsements thereon by the Commissary-General of Subsistence and the Surgeon-General, suggesting that the provision in the act making appropriation for the subsistence of the Army for the current fiscal year, "That to the cost of all stores and other articles sold to officers and men, except tobacco, as provided in section 149 Revised Statutes, 10 per centum shall be added to cover wastage, transportation, and other incidental expenses," should admit of certain exceptions, and to respectfully recommend the passage of an act in accordance with the accompanying draught.

ALEX. RAMSEY,  
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT  
*Of the United States Senate.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,  
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., November 22, 1879.

SURGEON-GENERAL U. S. A.,  
Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Surgeon-General to the act making appropriation for the subsistence of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, where it provides "that to the cost of all stores and other articles sold to officers and men, &c., ten per centum shall be added, &c."

I can hardly suppose that it was the intention that this law should apply to sales made to the sick in hospital.

As it increases materially the difficulty of providing proper delicacies

for the sick, I would respectfully suggest that the subject be brought to the attention of Congress, with a view to its abolition if deemed advisable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. PERIN,  
*Surgeon U. S. A., Medical Director.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Fort Leavenworth, Kans., November 24, 1879.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.  
Through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.

JNO. POPE,  
*Brevet Major-General, U. S. A., Commanding.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, November 26, 1879.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General Commanding.*

[Third indorsement.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, December 1, 1879.*

Respectfully referred to the Surgeon-General.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

[Fourth indorsement.]

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*December 4, 1879.*

Respectfully referred to the Commissary-General of Subsistence of the Army for his information.

J. K. BARNES,  
*Surgeon-General.*

[Fifth indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL SUBSISTENCE,  
*Washington, December 6, 1879.*

Respectfully returned to the Surgeon-General, with the information that in my annual report for the year 1879 I made the following recommendation with reference to sales to company messes :

In the act making appropriations for subsistence of the Army for the current fiscal year it is provided that to the cost of all stores and other articles sold to officers and men, except tobacco, as provided for in section one thousand one hundred and forty-nine of the Revised Statutes, ten per centum shall be added to cover wastage, transportation, and other incidental charges. I recommend that to the exception made (viz, tobacco "provided in section one thousand one hundred and forty-nine") there be added sales made to company messes. Such stores are, as a rule, purchased from funds received by the companies from the sales of savings of the ration to the Subsistence Department, and as the department pays the companies only the cost o

the stores it purchases from them, it is thought that it is hardly just to them to charge for supplies sold to be used by the messes in lieu of the articles sold to the department ten per centum in addition to their cost.

The exceptions should also include sales made to hospitals, and it is suggested that this communication be referred to the Secretary of War for transmittal to Congress, if he approve the recommendation.

R. MACFEELEY,  
*Commissary-General Subsistence.*

[Sixth indorsement.]

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
December 11, 1879.

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War, agreeably to the suggestion of the Commissary-General of Subsistence, and with the recommendation that it may have the Secretary's approval, and transmittal to Congress for favorable consideration there.

J. K. BARNES,  
*Surgeon-General.*

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That subsistence supplies may be sold to companies, detachments, and hospitals, at cost prices, not including cost of transportation, upon the certificate of officers commanding companies or detachments or in charge of hospitals, that the supplies are for the exclusive use of company, detachment, or hospital messes.

The conditions should be such as to be fair and equitable to the Indians and to the Government of the United States, and to be such as to be in the interest of the peace and harmony of the country.

It is the policy of the Government to treat the Indians as free men, and to give them the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by the citizens of the United States.

The Government is determined to protect the Indians from all wrongs and to give them the same justice as is given to the citizens of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,  
The President of the United States

Witness my hand and the seal of the United States at Washington, this 15th day of September, 1875.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Be it remembered, that on the 15th day of September, 1875, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, personally appeared the following persons, to-wit:

John Smith, of the County of King, State of Washington, who acknowledged to me that he was the author of the foregoing instrument, and that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and the seal of my office, at the City of Seattle, State of Washington, this 15th day of September, 1875.

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington

EXHIBIT ON THE TREATY  
Washington, January 1, 1876

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by the Secretary of the Interior of the following papers, to-wit:

1. A copy of the Treaty of 1868, between the United States and the Sioux Nation, dated April 23, 1868, and whereof the following is a copy:

2. A copy of the Treaty of 1868, between the United States and the Sioux Nation, dated April 23, 1868, and whereof the following is a copy:

3. A copy of the Treaty of 1868, between the United States and the Sioux Nation, dated April 23, 1868, and whereof the following is a copy:

4. A copy of the Treaty of 1868, between the United States and the Sioux Nation, dated April 23, 1868, and whereof the following is a copy:

5. A copy of the Treaty of 1868, between the United States and the Sioux Nation, dated April 23, 1868, and whereof the following is a copy: